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Appl. No.: 10/758,788

Amdt. Dated January 19, 2007

Response to Office Action Mailed October 23, 2006

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

10 This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1-13. (Cancelled).

15 14. (Currently Amended) A food and drink managing device with a circulation type-carrying path for providing containers carrying foods and drinks to customers by an endless circulating carrying path, comprising:

an identification information reading means for reading identification information on containers, adapted to identify individual containers, and provided near said circulating carrying path,

at least one sign part circularly moving as linked with said circulating carrying path,

20 a passage detection means provided near said circulating carrying path to detect passage of said sign parts,

a registering means connected to said identification information reading means and said passage detection means, which recognizes an interval between passing sign parts as one zone, and registers the identification information of the containers read by said identification

information reading means, as foods and drinks being supplied in relation to a zone in which the containers exist, and

a container throwing-in prohibited area of a given length provided in an upstream side of the circulating carrying path from a position of the identification information reading means

- 5 wherein said container throwing-in prohibited area comprises a tunnel-shaped cover that covers the containers, and wherein said identification information reading means is positioned inside said tunnel-shaped cover, and further comprising an electromagnet shield on said tunnel-shaped cover.

- 10 15. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said container throwing-in prohibited area comprises a throwing-in protecting wall along said circulating carrying path.

16-17. (Cancelled).

- 15 18. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein a plurality of said sign parts are positioned at almost regular intervals on said circulating carrying path.

19-21. (Cancelled).

- 20 22. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said sign part has sign identification information readable by said identification information reading means, and said identification information reading means is combined with said passage detection means.

23-25. (Cancelled).

26. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said registering means, when detecting new

identification information from said identification information reading means, registers the identification information with related time information in that moment.

27-29. (Cancelled).

5 30. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said registering means, when said sign part in a downstream side of said zone passes said passage detection means, and the identification information registered as food and drink being supplied in relation to the zone is not detected by the identification information reading means, changes ~~the~~ a record of identification information to a removed food and drink, and registers time information of said record change in relation to
10 the identification information, and further, holds said registration for a specified time.

31-39. (Cancelled).

40. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said identification information includes price information of foods and drinks.

15 41-47. (Cancelled).